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STATE FOR AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
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JOINT STAFF FOR DD PMA-A FOR WTC
COMMERCE FOR BIS (GOLDMAN)
NSC FOR CHUPA
WINPAC FOR LIEPMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#)

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): WRAP-UP FOR
WEEK ENDING 13 FEB 2004

This is CWC-22-04.

National Implementation Measures

1. (U) Del rep met on February 11 with Ralf Trapp, Special Assistant to DDG Brian Hawtin, who reported that only nine countries responded to the TS Note Verbale requesting States Party respond with their requests for or offers of assistance by February 1; one responded on February 2. Of the ten responses, five were requests for assistance, five were offers of assistance. Trapp noted his disappointment with the poor response to the Note Verbale.

2. (U) On February 9, Del rep met with International Cooperation and Assistance Division Director John Makhubalo and the head of the Implementation Support Branch (ISB) Magda Bauta Soles to discuss draft TS letters to AC/CB on the actual costs of the Article VI and Legal Network meetings funded from the U.S. voluntary contribution. Makhubalo assessed that both meetings were successes, and came in under estimated cost, and he thanked the U.S. for its support. Bauta indicated that while the Legal Network meeting introduced legal experts from all regions, the TS did not have the resources to do the follow-up needed to oversee the website, steer the efforts of the legal volunteers, comment on draft legislation submitted to the Office of the Legal Advisor (OLA), and assist in the preparation of presentations. At the moment, Lisa Tabassi of OLA is overwhelmed by her day-to-day responsibilities and is unable to devote the time needed to oversee this effort. Bauta noted that a cost-free expert similar to that provided by the U.S. in Ron Nelson might provide the TS the stimulus needed to make the organization of legal volunteers a force able to make progress on the difficult issues of implementation facing many States Parties.

3. (U) Separately, Del reps met with Magda Bauta Soles and Sergey Kisselev and solicited their views regarding the National Implementation Measures Action Plan. They reported that the internal TS task force has been meeting regularly, preparing the report required for EC-36. They also discussed their work on implementation, stating that their strategy is to first hold a general meeting for National Authorities followed by focused meetings on relevant issues for attendees' implementation. Bauta reported that while this has been well received, she believes that the majority of States Parties who have yet to fully implement of the CWC will not have completed their implementation by the CSP-10 deadline. Issues preventing full implementation vary, but are primarily political and affected by competing priorities in countries whose resources are stretched thin. When asked whether the CSP would be able to distinguish among those who have made a good faith effort from those who have not, Bauta replied that yes, that should not be a problem for delegates.

4. (U) Bauta praised the U.S. provision of experts who have attended ISB's regional meetings, seminars, and workshops on national implementation. She believes it is critical for the eventual success of the implementation effort for States Parties to send participants such as Edna Sidler and Kevin Farmer consistently to the regional meetings. Development of personal ties is crucial to this effort. Bauta also recommended that the TS consider devoting a staff person for a defined period of time to New York or capitols that have large contingents of diplomats. By building personal relationships and selling the importance of the CWC, such individuals could significantly advance both the TS' national implementation and universality efforts.

Data Automation

5. (U) Del rep spoke with Greg Linden, chief of the Information Support Branch, regarding TS progress on data

automation issues. The demonstration of the initial CFTS/RDBMS integration occurred January 20-21, first to senior TS officials and then to TS personnel in the Verification and Declarations Branches. Linden advised that the TS decided to first demonstrate the fledgling Verification Information System (VIS) to TS users, to determine whether it meets future TS data receipt, manipulation and analysis requirements. The demonstration was judged a success and follow-up user requirements have been given to the contractor. Demonstrations for interested delegations are being considered for the April 2004 timeframe.

16. (U) When asked about the TS paper announcing the VIS, Linden responded that it had been approved by senior TS officials, had been cleared by the TS editors, and was awaiting the DDG's signature. Linden predicted that it would be available to delegations in late February and would include predicted milestones on availability to delegations. Linden said that the press of business would prohibit TS development of the CTFS until late 2004. Instead, Linden has suggested to his senior TS managers that the CTFS be posted on the OPCW website circa March 2004 with accompanying fanfare, announcing its availability to interested delegations for submitting their October industry data declarations and requesting delegations' feedback on what works well and what needs adjusting. Linden has yet to receive feedback on this idea from his management.

Article X

17. (U) In a February 10 lunch meeting requested by Hassan Mashhadi, TS Assistance and Protection Branch Director (Iran), discussion was centered on Article X related conferences and meetings. Mashhadi provided a brief overview of TS coordination with NATO in light of TS participation in the recently concluded NATO PFP conference in Norway on January 29. He also provided the report from that meeting (faxed to AC/CB). TS plans for an ASSISTEX II exercise in late 2005 were discussed. The Ukraine has offered to host the event, which Mashhadi hopes to make an OPCW/NATO PFP joint sponsored exercise. Mashhadi also provided a copy of the WHO efforts in developing health-related information in the event of threat of use or actual use of chemical, biological, or radio-nuclear devices (faxed to AC/CB). He highlighted that the WHO is devoting 6.2 million Euros over the next two years specifically to this project.

18. (U) Request for Medical Experts: Mashhadi discussed the recent call for Member States to nominate medical experts. He is setting up a working group to help increase the base of knowledge in the event of a request for assistance by a State Party under Article X. He sees this working group as a way to facilitate interaction between relevant medical experts in Member States, familiarize medical personnel to the CWC, and create a pool of knowledge, which can be drawn on in need, similar to the Protection Network or Legal Experts working groups. The group would meet roughly once or twice a year depending on what the group deemed most helpful.

19. (U) Annual Protection Network Meeting in Vienna: The Protection Network is meeting in Vienna on March 18-19. This is an expert group comprised mainly of technical, hands-on related personnel from Member States. Mashhadi stressed the desire to have a U.S. expert nominated for the network. Del rep will attend the March meeting as an observer and report back to Washington on whether it would be useful to nominate a U.S. expert.

EC Efficiency

10. (U) EC Chairman Kubernat called a February 10 meeting to discuss an extensive list of proposals to increase the efficiency of the Executive Council sessions. Delegations noted a number of steps that had already been taken by the TS, such as very early distribution of an annotated agenda

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for the March EC. The Peruvian Ambassador suggested that the proposals that had a clear consensus be quickly approved and separated out so that delegations could focus discussion on the more contentious issues. The German Ambassador commented that a number of the proposals fell within the authority of the Chairman, and could be instituted without further discussion. The U.S. delegation emphasized that increased EC efficiency is a priority item for Washington for the first half of the year, and supported the suggestions of the Peruvian and German Ambassadors.

11. (U) Virtually all delegations expressed support for the goal of the Chairman's paper and the meeting. However, the meeting bogged down as the Chairman sought to proceed with item-by-item discussion. Kubernat ended the session by

informing participants that he would call another meeting for further deliberations. While that may indeed occur before the next EC, WEOG delegations were subsequently informed that the Chairman intends to simply implement as many of the changes as possible that fall within his authority.

112. (U) Javits sends.

SOBEL